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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-7367

Mr. Michael Strimbu
Deputy Project Officer
Emergency Response Section
Western Response Unit
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
11th Floor
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

July 27, 1987

TAT-05-G2-00127

Re: Yellow Freight Terminal Chemical Spill, Detroit, Michigan
TDD# 5-8705-19

Dear Mr. Strimbu:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on May 29, 1987, tasked the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to observe the clean-up of a chemical spill at the Yellow Freight Terminal at 7701 West Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. The following letter report details the TAT activities pursuant to this task.

Yellow Freight employees discovered a chemical odor emanating from a trailer parked in the terminal late on May 29, 1987. The trailer was immediately isolated in an unused portion of the terminal and the environmental consultants for Yellow Freight, Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E&E), were notified. Also informed of the situation was the U.S. EPA Region V Response Center. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Verneta Simon provided background information to TAT member Robert McLeod prior to his departure to the site.

The contents of the trailer, as identified by the shipping manifest, consisted of one hundred 5-gallon containers of potassium silver cyanide and was the property of OMI International Corporation, 21441 Hoover Road, Warren, Michigan. Marine Pollution Control (MPC) had been retained to implement clean-up operations.

Remediation procedures, carried out in Level B protection, led to the discovery of a broken container which had allowed the contents to disperse. The released fluids had been absorbed by surrounding cardboard cartons. MPC staged the contaminated materials placing the broken container and affected cardboard cartons into drums for shipment to a disposal facility.

Roy F. Weston, Inc.

SPILL PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Associates, Inc., Resource Applications, Inc.,
Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.



Mr. Michael Strimbu

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An Emergency Response Team from E&E arrived during the cleanup to oversee cleanup operations for their client. The drummed material was sent to CyanoKEM, Detroit, Michigan for proper disposal. The TAT provided the OSC with a verbal briefing on May 30, 1987.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

ROY F. WESTON, INC.

Sally Matz

FOR Robert McLeod
Environmental Geologist

Sally Matz

FOR Scott D. Springer
Technical Assistance Team
Leader, Region V

RM/ljs

Attachment